

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM USDEL SECRETARY NEW YORK

TO AMEMBASSY EC BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTO 25004

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EAID, BE, EG

SUBJECT: MESSAGE FROM SECSTATE TO SOAMES

1. PLEASE TRANSMIT THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM ME TO SIR CHRISTOPHER SOAMES.

2. BEGIN TEXT. DEAR CHRISTOPHER: I AM WRITING TO YOU ABOUT A PROBLEM FOR WHICH I AM SURE WE SHARE CONCERN. IT RELATES TO THE PROGRESSIVE AND STABILIZING ROLE PLAYED BY EGYPT IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND EGYPT'S CRUCIAL IMPORTANCE IN ASSURING A HEALTHY COURSE OF EVENTS IN THE REGION.

3. AS YOU ARE AWARE, PRESIDENT SADAT INHERITED MAJOR ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. HIS GOVERNMENT HAS SHOWN THAT IT WISHES TO FOCUS ITS ATTENTION ON RECONSTRUCTION, ECONOMIC STABILITY AND GROWTH. WE BELIEVE THIS WILL BE A DIFFICULT BUT NOT IMPOSSIBLE TASK, ESPECIALLY IF EGYPT RECEIVES SUFFICIENT ASSISTANCE.

4. AS YOU ARE ALSO AWARE, EGYPT LACKS SUFFICIENT FOREIGN EXCHANGE TO SUSTAIN ITS ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND UNDERTAKE A LONG-RANGE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.

5. WITH THIS IN MIND, WE HAVE MADE A SUBSTANTIAL COMMITMENT TO ASSIST EGYPT. OUR BILATERAL PROGRAMS WILL AMOUNT TO ABOUT 900 MILLION DOLLARS FOR THIS FISCAL YEAR AND WE
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PLAN THE SAME LEVEL FOR THE COMING FISCAL YEAR. AS PART

OF OUR ASSISTANCE, WE ARE GIVING EGYPT DURING THIS FISCAL YEAR AND TRANSITIONAL QUARTER 1.25 MILLION TONS OF WHEAT AND FLOUR ON VITRUALY GRANT TERMS, 40 YEAR REPAYMENT, 10 YEAR GRACE PERIOD, 2 TO 3 PERCENT INTEREST.

6. IT WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL IF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AND ITS MEMBER COUNTRIES COULD FIND WAYS OF CONVERTING A SUBSTANTIAL PART OF THEIR COMMERCIAL SALES OF GRAIN AND FLOUR TO CONCESSIONAL AID TERMS IN ORDER TO ASSIST EGYPT DURING THESE DIFFICULTIES.

7. I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR ATTENTION TO THIS MATTER AND LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU.

8. WARM REGARDS, HENRY A. KISSINGER. END MESSAGE.
KISSINGER

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